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First Sunday of Advent,
December 1st, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Advent Weekday
Private Mass
Ann Kerrigan
(Req. by Shirley Machowski)

TUESDAY - Advent Weekday
12:05 PM - Ann Lecci
(Req. by Loretta Tay & Marcy Tay Diamond)

WEDNESDAY - Advent Weekday
5:30 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Debbie & Dave Magro)

THURSDAY - Advent Weekday
Private Mass
Victoria Kelly
(Req. by Debbie Rolish)

FRIDAY - Advent Weekday
12:05 PM - Albert Reynolds Jr
(Req. by Family)

SATURDAY - Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 2nd Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM - George & Elizabeth Cleaver
(Req. by Grandson Ron Cleaver)

MASSES ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
WILL BE CELEBRATED IN CHURCH DURING ADVENT

SANCTUARY CANDLE
All Living and Deceased Members
of Visitation Parish

The daily readings; may be found at either USCCB.ORG
or under the headings of daily readings listed in back of
the missalette.

1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, PhD, Pastor
Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE
Mrs. Kathleen Bumbnick, DMM
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Ms. Catherine Bennett, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-Chairperson, PC
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through
Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is
available for your intentions by calling the
parish office. Please attempt to request your in-
tentions as early as possible. A \$10 donation is
suggested.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Beginning in Advent,
Confessions will be heard from 6:30 until 7:00 PM
on Wednesday Evenings. DURING THE JUBILEE
YEAR, CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD FROM 3:00
PM until 3:40 PM THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY
MONTH. Confession may ALWAYS be arranged
with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory
office. Please avail yourselves to this life-giving
sacrament!

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Scheduled no less
than **nine months** prior to the date of mar-
riage. Four preparation sessions with the pas-
tor, as well as all diocesan requirements, must
be met. **All Catholic candidates for Marriage**
must be registered, practicing members of a
parish at least 6 months prior to scheduling the
wedding. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

INFANT BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally cele-
brated during one of the Sunday Liturgies. Pre-
baptismal instructions must be completed by
the parents at least 3 weeks prior to the celebra-
tion of the sacrament. Catholic godparents
must obtain a letter of eligibility from their pas-
tors four weeks in advance. Baptisms are never
celebrated during the Season of Lent. **ANOINT-**
ING OF THE SICK: Celebrated after any Sunday
Mass as requested and as a parish during the
Easter Season.

MEMBERSHIP: Forms are located on the back
page of the bulletin (or on the parish website) to
be filled out and sent to the parish. Registrations
are also welcome by phone.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - November 24, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$303.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2668.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$30.00
Catholic Charities.....	\$75.00
All Souls Day.....	\$13.00
Retired Priests Medical.....	\$3.00
All Saints Day.....	\$3.00
Votive Candles.....	\$113.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$10.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$70.00
Donation - Calendar Winning.....	\$25.00

TOTAL: \$3333.00

 Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Pauline Molchany, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petroro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, Leonard Russell, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varnecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

 Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of December 2nd to December 8th:



Carmela Cascino	Kyla Daly
Thomas Gahagan	Catherine Kessler
Bryon Mihelic	Dolores Foust
Kevin Petak	Margaret Gawlas
Linda Gorentz	Brian Krise
William Kuswara	James Lentz
Raymond Litzinger	

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It

The 2025 Yearly Calendars of Prizes are now available! Beginning this weekend and through the end of December, we will be selling them in the main vestibule of the Church. This is our last yearly fundraiser and IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DO WELL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR FINANCIAL STABILITY. Please consider purchasing at least one for yourself, perhaps others as gifts (Christmas, birthday, etc.) It would also be helpful if you would consider taking an (some) additional calendar (s) to sell. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS LAST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR 2024) .



TURKEY RAFFLE: Thank you, Thank you! Many thanks to all who worked to make our Turkey Raffle so successful this year. This includes the many parishioners who purchased the parish raffle tickets and the individuals who generously donated gifts of money, gift cards and items for the basket of cheer, door prizes, baskets and lottery tickets.

A simple thank you does not suffice to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who invested so much time and talent to organize and work this event. Your complete dedication to every aspect of this event is appreciated more than you know. Special thanks to Fr. John for his support and guidance.

WINNERS OF PARISH BASKETS

Basket of Cheer
 Cathy Solitro
 Neighborhood Basket
 Kelly McKissick
 Lottery Tree
 Alisha Wenderoth
 Martella’s Basket
 Kristyn Amendola

Home Visits with the Eucharist - If you are someone you know cannot come to Church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please either fill out the form on the parish website or call the parish office and give your name to the secretary. We will be certain that you or your friend or loved one will receive the Lord regularly as you rightly deserve.

Come and See: Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith? Were you or someone you know baptized in the Catholic faith and never Confirmed? We would like to provide an opportunity to anyone who would answer yes to these questions to “come and see” the possibilities and possibly become a part of the Christian Initiation process and become full members of the Catholic family. If you are interested, we will be holding inquiry sessions on the Weekend of December 7th and 8th following each Sunday Mass (4:00 PM Sat. /9:00AM Sun.). We will gather for light refreshments in the rectory meeting room (next door to the Church) so that you can speak with me and meet members of our Christian Initiation Team. There is absolutely no commitment. Just “Come and See.”

From the Pastor's Desk

This week is a shortened week for the bulletin and I am writing my column on Sunday afternoon seeing that I am leaving for Baltimore later today and I will not return until Tuesday afternoon when I will be leaving for Pittsburgh overnight to be at an early morning medical clinical appointment on Wednesday. The bulletin needs to be printed on Wednesday seeing that this is a short week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Therefore, I will be unable to summarize the pope’s Wednesday Audience for you this week.

This week I give thanks to God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit for the many gifts that HE has given to me and to our parish. First, I am grateful for the gift of life, renewed for me by the donation of a new liver this past July. I am grateful for the gifts of Faith, Hope, and Love that God has given me in abundance. I am grateful for the gift of my family, especially my mother and my sister. I give thanks for ability to be part of the sacramental life of the Church, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist. I am grateful for my vocation to the priesthood that I attempt to live out faithfully. I am grateful for God’s mercy that he has shown me in abundance. I am grateful for you, my parish family for the love and example you show me through your Christian discipleship. I am grateful for my friends, those who have gone out of their way to show me love and care, especially in the times of my greatest need. I also give thanks for my loving companion Meggie, who in a way is a symbol of God’s unconditional love for me. The list goes on and on. One thing is certain, as I enter into the autumn of the life, I realize that only a life rooted in gratitude for the ability to encounter the mystery of God in so many varied and splendid ways is worth living.

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his *Sunday Angelus* message, Pope Francis reflects upon last Sunday’s gospel where Jesus handed over to Pilate, the Roman procurator, to be condemned to death. A brief dialogue begins between the two, and although Pilate’s questions and the Lord’s answers, two words in particular are transformed, acquiring new meaning. Two words: the word “king” and the word “world.” At first Pilate asks Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” trying to discern whether the man in front of him is potentially threatening. Jesus claims to be king, yes, but in the way an authority normally rules over his subjects. Jesus is a king insofar as he is a witness: he is the One who speaks the truth, the effective Word that transforms the world. Secondly, Pontius Pilate’s “world” is one where the strong triumph over the weak, the rich over the poor, the violent over the meek Jesus is King, but his kingdom is not of Pilate’s world, and not of this world either. Jesus’ world, indeed, is the new world. It is the kingdom of heaven, which Christ brings to this earth by pouring out grace and truth, where Jesus the King redeems creation ruined by evil with the power proper to divine love. Jesus saves creation, because Jesus liberates, Jesus forgives, Jesus brings peace and justice. Pilate does not open himself to the truth, even though it is right in front of him. He will not listen to Jesus. The one who is from the truth, listens to his voice (cf. Jn 18:37). It is the voice of the King of the universe, who saves us. Pope Francis reminds us that listening to the Lord brings light into our hearts and into our lives. So, let us try to ask ourselves – everyone ask themselves in their own heart: can I say that Jesus is my “king”? Is His Word my guide, my certainty? Do I see in Him the merciful face of God who always forgives, who is always waiting for us to give us his forgiveness?

Advent Adult Education Series: During this Advent Season, Fr. John will be offering an adult education series on Monday afternoons from 2:00PM until 3:15 PM, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd entitled: The Birth of Jesus in the Gospels: Prayer and Study. In it, we will look at the infancy narratives: that is the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew and Luke (Mark and John don’t speak about Jesus’ birth). Also, the last 1/2 hour of each session will be dedicated to questions and answers about the Catholic Faith brought by the participants – absolutely nothing is off limits! Come to one session...come to all. All are invited and welcome to attend. A sign up sheet is located in the back of the Church to determine interest. No commitment is required. Bring your bible!

 WELCOMING NEW AND FORMER MEMBERS TO OUR SUNDAY LITURGIES: This Advent we hope to increase our identity as a welcoming parish by inviting parishioners who have not been with us for a while especially since COVID to come home to pray with us again AND if we know of anyone who is searching for a parish to join our family. A family is only as strong as is its weakest member, BE A STRONG AMBASSADOR FOR OUR PARISH BY INVITING SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH US ON A REGULAR BASIS. Remember, the future life of our community is in YOUR hands.

DON’T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR ADVENT PRAYER PARTNER IN THE MAIN VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH NEXT WEEK!!!

Jubilee 2025 – News and Notes: Ministers of Hospitality are being recruited currently. Remember, we have been designated a HOLY SITE for the Jubilee YEAR and we need to make potential pilgrims feel welcome at our weekend liturgies. If you are interested, please contact Fr. John .

Opening Liturgy for the Jubilee Year: The opening liturgy for the Jubilee Year will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All parishes in the diocese have been asked to send representatives to this Mass. If you are interested in being part of the car pool to attend this memorable liturgy, please contact Fr. John. *This mass is very important to me personally, you won’t be disappointed if you attend.*

Angel Tree 2024 - Please know that our Annual Angel Tree Project is now in full swing.

Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 - Advent Hope: The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. Every 25 years the Church celebrates a special Holy Year called the Jubilee Year. This Jubilee will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve 2024. The theme of the Jubilee Year is HOPE. It is a time for us to realize that “hope does not disappoint” when it is rooted in the knowledge that God has committed himself to us in *Emmanuel*, “God with us.”

